



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
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January 19, 2011

United States Attorney Deborah Gilg, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Nebraska State Patrol, announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

Ronald Stark Jr., age 43 of Omaha, was sentenced for the distribution of child pornography. The Honorable Joseph F. Bataillon sentenced Stark to seven years imprisonment. After his release from prison Stark will begin a five year term of supervised release.

On three separate occasions prior to March 10, 2010, FBI Task Force Officers in Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma, working in an undercover capacity, were able to download child pornography from Stark's computer. On May 25, 2010, a search warrant was served on Stark's residence. Forensic analysis of Stark's computer revealed over 2000 videos and 2000 still images of child pornography. Officers recovered an equal amount of child erotica. The child pornography included depictions of prepubescent bondage, torture and bestiality. When interviewed Stark admitted to collecting child pornography beginning in 1999. He indicated that what started with an interest in 16 to 17 year olds progressed to younger children.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

This matter was investigated by the Omaha FBI's Cyber Crime Task Force, of which the Nebraska State Patrol (list lead investigating agency, or agencies, here), is a partner. The Omaha CCTF is a multi-jurisdictional task force consisting of eleven federal, state and local law enforcement agencies from Nebraska and Iowa. The mission of the Omaha CCTF is to investigate and apprehend high technology criminals and to protect our communities by preventing high technology crime and national security threats involving computers and computer networks. The Omaha CCTF was established on the premise that the capabilities of law enforcement agencies to investigate computer and high technology related crimes are

enhanced in a task force setting involving the sharing of resources and expertise.

Name of Defendant: Ronald Stark Jr.

AKA:

Age: 43

City of residence: Omaha, Nebraska

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Receipt and Distribution of child pornography; 5-20 years imprisonment; \$250,000, 5 years-life supervised release and a \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Omaha, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: Omaha, Nebraska

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:

Others Charged in Same Scheme:

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: On or about the 7th day of December, 2009

Federal Arrest Date: August 5, 2010

Date Complaint Issued: N/A

Indictment Returned Date: July 20, 2010

Initial Appearance Date: August 5, 2010

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Plead guilty on October 12, 2010

Sentencing Date: January 19, 2011

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: Thomas D. Thalken

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Held without Bond.

In Continuous Custody Since: August 5, 2010

Assigned District Court Judge: Joseph F. Bataillon

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: MPN